

**Budget & External Affairs Division**  
**Weekly Report for**  
**Week of January 3, 2000 to January 7, 2000**

**Accomplishments:**

**External Affairs/Congressional:**

When in Boulder this week, met with Cindy Schmidt from UCAR and Carol Knight to discuss the agenda for a planned congressional staff visit in Boulder on February 23, 24, 25. Also discussed Hill Briefings by Jim Meagher from the Aeronomy Lab on results of the Nashville air quality study. Jim will be doing a briefing for OMB on this topic so we thought it would be a good opportunity to do an update on the Hill.

Held monthly conference call on January 6. While out in Boulder attended the monthly meeting of the Boulder Outreach Coordinating Committee. Also made a presentation to the Millennium group at the Environmental Technology Lab on budget and external affairs.

Dave Evans briefed four staffers of appropriations member who were as yet unfamiliar with OAR programs. On December 20<sup>th</sup> he met with Adam Brink, staffer for Rep. Kolbe (R-AZ), Sean McGraw, staffer for Rep. Tom Latham (R-IA), Sean Dalton, staffer for Rep. Charlie Taylor (R-NC), and on December 21 he met with Karen Buttaro, staffer for Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH). All visits went well

The redesign of the OAR pop-up display has been finished. The new layout has been designed to illustrate our areas of research focus i.e. Climate, Atmosphere and Air Quality, and Ocean and Coastal Resources. Its first moment of public exposure will be at the OAR budget conference the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Budget Formulation/Planning:**

NOAA received an additional \$26M for Climate observations and services in the FY 2001 budget. Coordinated budget issues with NWS and NESDIS, who share the funding. Raised issue of using inflation adjustments for Boulder facilities operation.

Met with Boulder lab directors to discuss funding options for the buildout of the basement in the David Skaggs Research Center. At the meeting we outlined

courses of action to be followed. Also discussed the rent shortfall issue and the action item was to recommend that ATBs be used to cover the problem in the FY 2001 budget.

Met with DAA, OMI Director, and A.O. to discuss options for spreading the Goddard, Corporate and Deob Assessment to OAR Headquarters. The decision was to go with a combination of salary lapse and 10 percent cut on other services on each program budget for deobs and corporate and the Goddard was taken out of the AADF. Memo will go to OAR Headquarter Program Directors.

Sent email to OAR FMC' regarding the Goddard, Deob and NOAA Corporate Assessment. The memo requested they provide the Budget Execution Team Leader with the Line/Task for each assessment by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Revised the Congressional/AADF Funding Table to include revised rescission and revised Project Leaders. The OMI Director signed the table and will attach to email addressed to OAR Programs and staff.

Completed dry run for OAR Budget Conference and completed material needed for binders and presentation.

Met with Sharon Schroeder and Mark Blades to work on our presentations for the OAR Budget Execution Workshop.

Processed five task number requests for the OAR Labs.

Extracted data from the closeout spreadsheets to address the question from HPCC on the amount of carryover funds for task number 8R1BHP. Additional conversations with HPCC are necessary.

Provided the NOAA Budget Office FY 1999 closeout variance explanations for accountability control codes over 500k or 10%.

Provided NOAA Budget a copy of our new FY 00 add-on's identifying the task number and the accountability control code.

Worked on the following Budget Conference issues: prepared distribution rate and closeout slides for presentation, formatted Pete Olivere's slides to be inserted in the binder, and participated in the dry run.

Provided NOAA Budget accountability control codes for Health of the Atmosphere, Ocean Services, and NOPP Activities.

Reviewed and approved OAR HQ FOP to OGP for 'Live from the storm'.

Unlocked 1 fop and 2 RTP's for the OAR Lab's.

Provided Sea Grant the PY Deob targets for NOAA in FY 1999 and 2000.

Approved Approximately 150 RTP's.

### **Budget Execution/Administrative Services:**

Distributed handbook on reimbursable tasks.

Prepared notebooks for budget conference.

Processed paperwork for February parking sticker for the OAR Van - mailed

Set-up telephone, computer, building pass, etc. for OSS Temp Secretary

Prepared/submitted CD-435 for Dr. Childress, received copy of P. O.

Contacted Office Supply for binder backorder- binders received.

Processed invoices for payment/Approved travel orders and vouchers.

Worked w/ FRT on travel orders for Budget conference.

Sent e-mail regarding new form for building pass (NOAA 65-8).

Finalized logistics w/ Hyatt staff, registration table designees, and C. Maloy for budget conference.

Sent new form to CAMS for Sabrina for Travel Manager.

Submitted material for bankcard presentation.

Updated AADF spreadsheet.

Worked on options for the Emergency Fund cuts.

Prepared memo for M. Langlais to programs on their share of Emergency Fund.

Sent email to AOML informing them of their share of the rent.

### **Web/Boulder Activities**

Helped arrange agenda for and made updates/ presentations for monthly Outreach call.

Arranged and directed conference call with core Web Committee; worked out content issues for Atmosphere page of new web site.

Met with Chief of BEA and secretary to work out performance plan duties; wrote personnel procedures for Boulder BEA employee

Worked with webmaster to exorcize “ERL” from current OAR site

Answered web inquires

### **Boulder Activities**

Helped prepare agenda for the Boulder Outreach Coordinating Committee (BOCC) meeting; made presentations on Boulder web site, DSRC video filming, classroom/common spaces policy, progress on NOAA 30<sup>th</sup> commemorations

Finished draft of common spaces policy paper/guidelines and sent out for comment.

Organized NOAA/Boulder involvement in NOAA 30<sup>th</sup> kick-off video

### **Public Affairs:**

#### **LAST WEEK’S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE**

(12-28) CBS News is sending a crew to the Great Lakes Environmental Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI next week to do a piece on the decline of a tiny shrimp-like organism normally found in the bottom mud of lakes. GLERL scientists discovered in 1997 that these organisms, which provide food for a variety of fish species, were absent from southern Lake Michigan. They suspect the disappearance is linked to the introduction of zebra mussels.

(1-1) Dian Gaffen of the Air Resources Laboratory, Silver Spring, will appear on CNN at 7:30 p.m. to discuss heat as part of a climate/weather wrap-up and look ahead.

#### **THIS WEEK’S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE**

(1-5) Allan Macklin, a scientist with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, WA, was interviewed by *The Bush Blade* in Alaska about the conditions in the Bering Sea and the effects to fish stock.

(1-6) “The Science Teacher,” a nine-times-yearly publication of the National Science Teachers Association, included a piece in the January issue about the work Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant researchers are doing on the fishhook flea found in Lake

Michigan.

### **NEXT WEEK'S MEDIA EVENTS/MAJOR COVERAGE**

(1-10) *The Washington Post* plans to run an article on fishhook fleas, another exotic species that has recently appeared in the Great Lakes via ballast water from foreign ships. Researchers at the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor, MI were interviewed for the article.

(1-10) Hurricane Andrew is the topic of a German television program to be broadcast in that country as part of a series on natural disasters. Michael Black, research meteorologist at the Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL was interviewed about his family's experiences during the storm.

(1-12) Discovery On-Line, a web-based science show, is doing a segment on invasive species. Two Sea Grant researchers, Jim Carlton (Connecticut Sea Grant) and Greg Ruiz (Maryland Sea Grant) are scheduled to appear.

### **Issues Worked On/Ongoing:**

#### **External Affairs/Congressional:**

We are still in the process of updating Research in Your State and the ERL One-Pagers in preparation for the release of the President's Budget and subsequent rush of Hill Briefings on our new initiatives.

In association with the Office of Scientific Support and NOAA/OFA downtown, we are completing the documentation and supporting material for our new initiatives for FY 2001 in preparation for the release of the President's Budget to Congress February 5<sup>th</sup>. We received some encouraging last-minute increases for Climate Observations and Services from OMB after consultation between OMB and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

This week (Jan 12<sup>th</sup>) we will be conducting the OAR Budget Conference in Rosslyn, VA with attendance by representatives from NOAA headquarters budget office and our labs and programs around the country.

#### **Budget Execution/Administrative Services:**

Continued working w/ Distribution staff to start receiving FIMA reports - again (started receiving).

Draft memos from M. Langlais to Division Chiefs on operating budget.

Submitted responses to Dr. Bakers request on group travel to Kathy to put in final.

Working w/ Facilities regarding 11th floor deficiencies.

### **Budget Formulation/Planning:**

Researched question from the Field Resources Team on the status of carryover from the Administrator's Fund. NOAA Budget plans to return these funds to the Line Offices; however, they have not finalized the procedure. NOAA Budget will provide further guidance.

Researched the current policy of entering FOP's for reimbursable earnings. Based on a conversation with the Field Resources Team, it appears the current policy is no longer necessary. An email addressing this issue and recommendations will be prepared and sent throughout OAR and NOAA. This will reduce the number of reimbursable FOP's currently done.

Met with Mark Blades and Cherraceitta to discuss Management Fund Distribution Rate FOPs that need to be in the system by January 20<sup>th</sup> and provided guidance on how to set up worksheets and tables to track Management Fund. Requested individual budget tables (by object class) for each program budget. Expected completion date is January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Web/Boulder Activities:**

Continued to work with labs/programs on their descriptions and graphics for web site.

Took oral comments from Oceans OSS staff; summarized, edited and forwarded for oceans content providers, webmaster.

Continued planning for OAR Outreach Coordinators spring meeting.

### **Boulder Activities**

Continued work on OAR-Boulder web site; put up page for BOCC comments.

Negotiated with Public Affairs on filming in Boulder for DSRC video.

Held meeting with GSA, others on selecting appropriate display technology

for lobby “Scientists at Work” photo project.

## **Upcoming Items:**

### **External Affairs/Congressional:**

Carol Knight will be coming to Silver Spring the week of January 25 for meetings on the OAR web page and to plan the outreach conference..

Continuing the effort to keep new staffers and Congressmen informed on OAR activities, Dave Evans will meet with Carol McGuire, Staffer to Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM), Craig Felner, staffer for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Nadine Berg and Lucy Hand, staffers for Representative Jose Serrano (D-NY)

Eddie Bernard will be coming to visit next week, and will be meeting with various hill staffers to provide updates on the Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program. Scheduled are John Rayfield, professional staffer on the House Resources Committee, Warren Weinstein, staffer for Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA), and Margaret Cummisky, Staffer for Sen. Daniel K. Inoue (D-HI).

The NOAA’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick-off will take place this Wednesday, January 12 at 2 p.m. EST. Dr. Baker will be conducting the ceremonies from the meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Long Beach, CA, with satellite events taking place simultaneously at NOAA locations around the country, including Boulder, Seattle, and Silver Spring

### **Budget Formulation/Planning:**

Work continues on the narratives and other justification materials needed for the FY 2001 budget to Congress which will be released on February 7.

### **Budget Execution/Administrative Services:**

FOPS - need to enter for distribution rate and UCAR.

Attended Team meeting.

Met w/ P. Dimmer on NAPAP budget and 9WGR codes for the Labs

Met w/ program staff on SRC meeting and China trip (will need CD-435's)

Met w/ K. Girrs on space/rent.

Met w/ M. Uhart on SAB budget.

Met w/ DAA & ED on options for emergency fund - option #4 approved.

## **Public Affairs**

### **UPCOMING PRESS RELEASES**

(1-12) The Air Resources Laboratory in Silver Spring, MD will begin a series of flights to test the air around Fort Lauderdale, FL for mercury. This is a joint effort with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Florida Department of the Environment.

(Late January) *Aquarius*, the world's only underwater habitat, will begin its 2000 season with a mission by the JASON educational project Feb. 28-March 10.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DAM REMOVAL:** Jim Hightower, North Carolina Sea Grant Extension fisheries specialist, was interviewed by Animals magazine about the impact of dam removal on fish migration. The article is slated to appear in the May or June issue.

**JASON/AQUARIUS:** The JASON Project will be the first mission of *Aquarius'* 2000 season Feb 28-March 10. The JASON Project is an educational project that takes young aquanauts to various places. This year's project compares extreme situations comparing life aboard a spacecraft with life aboard an underwater habitat.

**HEAT AND HUMIDITY:** Environmental Science and Technology magazine is doing a piece on the projected increases in the Heat Index study conducted by the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. The piece is slated for spring publication.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** Bob Reiss is a writer working on a book for Hyperion Publishers (part of the Disney group) about climate change research.

**LIVE FROM THE STORM** Set for broadcast March 9 and April 13, 2000, this PBS program will give viewers a look at tornadoes and hurricanes. Aimed primarily at students, the program will include segments with NWS, NESDIS, and OAR staff.



### **UPCOMING COVERAGE**

**NO HURRICANES, PLEASE:** A National Geographic writer wants to fly during one of the non-hurricane research missions conducted by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, FL, for a piece on new technologies.

**SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN:** A SA writer wants to do a major piece on hurricane research for the magazine's Expedition series which focuses on scientific research. The writer and a camera person have requested to fly aboard one of the planes during a hurricane.